



The University of Melbourne

Carlton, N.3, Department of Bacteriology
Melbourne University
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA
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Dr. A. J. Metcalfe
National Health and Medical Research Council
Department of Health
Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Dr. Metcalfe:

Dr. Holloway's application appears to me to warrant very favorable consideration. He has under way a well-founded research program which has already achieved very interesting results in the establishment of another system of sexual recombination in *Pseudomonas*, one which shows some interesting similarities and contrasts to that in *E. coli*. The elaboration of these details is quite important for the evolution of a comparative understanding of sexuality in bacteria.

Dr. Holloway's work to date has been characterized by thoroughness and competence rather than imagination. To some extent this may be attributable, at present, to a rather heavy teaching load, in part to a limited degree of intimate contact and discussion with experts in related fields, with whom to sharpen his ideas. In his present circumstances, it would be quite difficult for him to continue his research without the technical assistance called for in his application. As he is on an important and fruitful line of work, which is not being duplicated anywhere, it would seem to me quite important to support it for its own sake, and to encourage his further development as a research scientist.

My further comment is limited by lack of experience with competitive applications. I have no doubt whatever that an application of this quality and modesty of demands would have a high priority in competitions within my experience in the U.S.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical
Genetics

Australia